

THE
NUMBER
OF
ALEHOUSES

Shewn to be
EXTREMELY PERJURIOUS
TO THE
PUBLIC
IN A
LETTER to a Member of PARLIAMENT.

By the V. of S. in KENT.

LONDON,
Printed for the AUTHOR,
And Sold by BALDWIN, in Pall-Mall.
M.DCC.LVIII.
[Price Six-pence.]

THE
NUMBER
OF
ALPHABETS

EXPLANATION OF THE



IN A NEW METHOD OF

THE V. of A. in K. H. C.

LONDON

Printed for the AUTHOR

and sold by J. B. B. B. in Pat. H. C.

MDCCLXXXIII

[Price 2s. 6d.]

The NUMBER of
ALEHOUSES

Shewn to be
Extremely Pernicious, &c.

S I R,

I SAW a few Years ago, with a great deal of Pleasure, in some of the publick Papers, the following Paragraph, and made a Minute of it. “ It is said, a Bill will be
“ brought in the next Session of Parliament, for restraining the Number of Alehouses within the *Bills of Mortality*, and for making all
“ Licences *determinable* upon the
“ *Presentment* of a Grand Jury—
“ which is believed to be the most

A 2

“ effectual

“ effectual Way of removing those
 “ *Nusances*, that have been so long
 “ a *Grievance* and *Scandal* to the
 “ Inhabitants of this Metropolis,
 “ *heretofore* esteemed the *best go-*
 “ *verned* City in the Universe.”

Whether this well intended Bill ever appeared, I am not certain—I fear not. However, I hope, the noble Design will soon be revived, and take Place. And as it is *so notorious*, that the *whole Kingdom* abounds with the *same* *Nusances*, every well Wisher to the *Prosperity* and *Honour* of this Country, would be exceeding glad to see the same Methods made *general*, and vigorously pursued for removing *these* also, that the *whole Nation*, as well as its *Metropolis*,
 might

might appear to be the *best* governed one in the World. So many Ale-houses cannot but be an *Offence* against the Publick, as being commonly *Nurseries* of all Sorts of Wickedness and Mischief. And I find in *Wood's Institutes of the Laws of England*, that when set up where there is *no Occasion* for them (as *Multitudes* of them are) they are *real* Nufances, and the Owners of them may be indicted and fined.

It is well known, that the *true* Use and Design of Inns and Ale-houses, is for *Lodging* and *Relief* of *Travellers*; and our *Market Towns* (plentifully stocked with them) stand *so near together*, as to want *little* or

no Assistance for this Purpose. *What Need* can there be then for our *Roads* being crowded with *so many Ale-houses*, and that hardly a *poor Village* should be found without *several*, tho' it has no Manner of *Occasion* or *Pretence* for more than one, if there is *really* any for *that*? How to account for *this*, and the *amazing* Number of them, is entirely out of my Power, especially as the *Legislature* seems to have taken *all possible* Care to have no more than are *necessary* and *useful*. This fully appears from 2GEO. II. C. 28. and 26GEO. II. Cap. 31. by which it is provided, that *no* Licence shall be granted to *any* Person to keep a common Inn, or Alehouse, but at a *general Meeting* of
of

of the Justices *acting in the Division where such Person dwells*, that the said Justices might be truly informed as to the *Occasion* or *Want* of such Inns, or Alehouses, and the *Characters* of the *Persons* applying for Licences to keep the same. And the Reason alledged in these Acts for *such* Precautions is, because *many Inconveniencies have arisen* from *Persons* being licensed to keep Inns and common Alehouses, by *Justices*, who, living remote from the Places of Abode of such Persons, may not *truly be informed* of the above *important Particulars*. And lest unnecessary Houses should be encouraged, and set up by *Persons*, who reap great *Advantages* from them.

—By

—By the same excellent Act of 26 GEO. II. Cap. 13. No Justice of the Peace being a common Brewer of Ale, or Beer, Innkeeper, or Distiller, or a Seller of, or Dealer in Ale, or spirituous Liquors, or *interested* in any of the said Trades, or being a Victualler, or Maltster, shall be capable, or have any Power to grant Licences for selling Ale, or Beer, or any other Liquors; but the same shall be void. In the midst then of so many admirable, judicious *strict* Laws, to prevent the bad Effects of superfluous Alehouses, we want an *OEdipus* to unriddle the Affair, and inform us *how* it comes about, that *such incredible* Numbers of them are found almost in every Part of

of the Nation. I say *almost*, because I have known *in some Divisions in the West*, they are not so common—the Justices (to their great Honour) will *not* permit them. And the Face of Things, with respect to Sobriety, good Decorum, the religious Observation of the Lord's Day, in *such* Parishes is quite *different* from *other* Places *where* they abound.

WE will suppose the *principal* View in granting *so excessive* a Number of Licences, is to advance the Revenues of the Crown. But can we be driven to *any such* Extremity, or forget, that “ it is Righteousness
“ which exalteth a Nation, but that
“ Sin is a Reproach to any People?”

B

DO TH

DOTH not Wisdom cry, and Under-
 standing put forth her Voice?
 “ She standeth in the Top of high
 “ Places—she crieth at the Gates—
 “ receive my Instruction and not Sil-
 “ ver ; and Knowledge rather than
 “ choice Gold. By me Kings reign,
 “ and Princes decree Justice. Riches
 “ and Honours are with me—yea
 “ durable Riches and Righteous-
 “ ness.—My Fruit is better than
 “ Gold, yea than fine Gold, and
 “ my Revenue than choice Sil-
 “ ver.”

NOTHING can be more *certainly*
 known than the *horrid Effects* of
 Alehouses. They are Receptacles of
 Sots,

Sots, and the Scum of the Earth, who delight in decoying their Neighbours. “ They lay Wait, as he “ that setteth Snares — they set a “ Trap — they catch Men.” And there are but few Alehouses, but what have commonly a particular Set of idle, wicked Fellows, that almost daily frequent them, and as often disturb and terrify the Neighbourhood with their Noise and Quarrels, and keep the Streets continually ringing with their hideous Oaths and Imprecations.

It is said, that building a *Smith's Forge* near a Man's House, and making a Noise with Hammers, &c. has been held a *Nusance*; but how in-

offensive doth this appear, when compared to a *Publick House*; which is a *Shop*, an *Office*, a *Warehouse* for the *Devil*, as a very reputable Writer calls it?

I HAVE read in a *Law Book* that an *Action* lies for *hindering* of the wholesome Air; and likewise for *corrupting* the Air. But how often is this done in *Publick Houses* by profane, blaspheming, filthy Wretches, whose Breath is corrupt—who defile the Land.

THEY are even like the *Leviathan*—out “of their Nostrils go
 “ Smoke — their Breath kindles
 “ Coals; and a Flame goeth out
 “ of

“ of their Mouth.” Like *Solomon’s mad Man*—“ they cast Firebrands, “ Arrows and Death, and say, are “ we not in Sport?”

SURELY then there is the utmost Reason to expect, that *so many* Ale-houses, unless soon *suppressed* (*all Laws* having proved *ineffectual* towards *regulating* and reforming them) instead of *serving* must *destroy* the Nation—the *Deluge* of Impiety, that is *so well known* to arise *from this quarter*, must inevitably overwhelm it. It is in vain to complain of the present Overflowings of Ungodliness if we *keep open*, and even *multiply* the Flood-Gates that let them in upon us.

FREQUENT

FREQUENT Occasions present themselves to, and (as it were) *oblige* the Legislature (amidst their other great national Concerns) to turn their Thoughts towards the *alarming, yet increasing* Charge of *maintaining the Poor of the Kingdom*, and to enquire into the *Sources* of it. And *whenever* this is done, it cannot but *instantly* appear, *how much Ale-houses* contribute to this heavy, almost insupportable Burden; and *how many* Families are impoverished by them. Most Parishes will furnish any good Man, disposed to satisfy himself, with Instances enough of this Nature, as also of the Ruin of young Men of industrious, creditable

ble Families—of Servants, Journey-men, and the like, by having *so many* Opportunities and Temptations every where around them.

THE removing therefore of this *great and manifest* Cause, must appear an obvious and very natural Expedient towards speedily checking and lessening the Charge of the Poor, *so long and so much* complained of by the whole Nation. But without doing the *one*, I fear the *other* will always prove a *preposterous* and *fruitless* Undertaking.

It may not become me, indeed, in my obscure Station, to suggest so much; and I beg Pardon for the
Liberty

Liberty I have taken. My Apology for it is—that I was only willing to *try* for the Pleasure, which my contributing but a *single Hint*, a *bare Mite* (if I should be so fortunate) towards abating the raging, ruinous Vices of the present Times, would truly yield to,

S I R,

Your most humble Servant,

R. C.

APPEN-

APPENDIX.

Anno 4 JAC. 1. Cap. 5.

*An Act for repressing the odious and
loathsome Sin of Drunkenness.*

WHEREAS the loathsome,
and odious Sin of Drunk-
enness, is of late grown into com-
mon Use within this Realm, being
the Root and Foundation of many
other enormous Sins, as Bloodshed,
Stabbing, Murder, Swearing, Forni-
cation, Adultery, and such like, to
the great Dishonour of God, and of
our Nation, the Overthrow of many
good Arts, and manual Trades, the
disabling of divers Workmen, and
C the

the general impoverishing of many good Subjects, abusively wasting the good Creatures of God——Be it therefore enacted, by the King's most Excellent Majesty, the Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, that all and every Person, or Persons which after forty Days next following the End of this present Session of Parliament, shall be drunk and of the same Offence of Drunkenness shall be lawfully convicted, shall for every such Offence, forfeit and lose five Shillings of lawful Money of *England*, to be paid within one Week next after his, her, or their Conviction thereof, to the Hands of the
Church-

Churchwardens of that Parish, where the Offence shall be committed, who shall be accountable, therefore, to the Use of the Poor of the same Parish: And if the said Person, or Persons so convicted, shall refuse, or neglect to pay the said Forfeiture, as aforesaid, then the same shall be from Time to Time levied of the Goods of every such Person, or Persons so refusing, or neglecting to pay the same, by Warrant, or Precept from the same Court, Judge, or Justices, before whom the same Conviction shall be: And if the Offender, or Offenders, be not able to pay the said Sum of five Shillings, then the Offender, or Offenders, shall be committed to the Stocks for every

hisl C 2 Offence,

Offence, there to remain by the
Space of six Hours.

AND be it enacted by the Authority afore said, that if any Person, or Persons, wheresoever, his, or their Habitation, or Abiding be, shall at any Time hereafter be found upon View, or his own Confession, or on Proof of one Witness, to be tippling in any Inn, Alehouse, or Victualling-House, such Person, or Persons (unless it be in such Case, or Cases, as be tolerated or excepted) so offending, shall forfeit and lose, for every such Offence, the Sum of three Shillings and four Pence, of current Money of *England*, to the Use of the Poor of the Parish where the
said

saïd Offence shall be committed. And if he shall refuse or neglect to pay the same, it shall be levied by Distress, and if he be not able to pay the Forfeiture, then the Justice, or Court where the Conviction shall be, may punish the Offender, by setting him in the Stocks for every Offence, by the Space of four Hours. And by the Authority aforesaid, All Constables, Churchwardens, Headboroughs, Tything-Men, Aleconners, and Sidesmen, shall, in their several Oaths incident to their Offices, be charged in like Sort, to present Offences contrary to this Statute.

By 7 J. C. 10. 1 C. C. 4.

If any *Alehousekeeper* shall be convicted of being drunk, he shall,
besides

besides other Penalties, be utterly disabled to keep any such Alehouse for the Space of three Years, next ensuing the Conviction.

Recognizance of an Alehousekeeper
on 5 and 6 ED. VI. C. 25 and
26 G. II. C. 31.

BE it remembered, that on the
——Day of——in the Year
of the Reign of——*A. B.* of——
in the County of——Alehouse-
keeper, and *C. D.* of——Yeoman,
and *E. F.* of——Yeoman, personal-
ly came before us——Esquires, Jus-
tices of the Peace for the said Coun-
ty, and acknowledged themselves to
owe to our said Sovereign Lord the
King, that is to say, the said *A. B.*
the Sum of 10*l.* and the said *C. D.*
and

and *E. F.* the Sum of 5*l.* each, of good and lawful Money of *Great-Britain*, to be made and levied of their Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements, respectively to the Use of our said Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, if the said *A. B.* shall make Default in the Condition underwritten.

THE Condition of this Recognizance is such, that whereas the above bounden *A. B.* is licenced to keep a common Alehouse for one Year, from the 29th Day of this present Month *September*, in the House where he now dwelleth at—*afore-said* if he the said *A. B.* shall keep and maintain good Order and Rule, and
shall

shall suffer no Disorders, nor unlawful Games to be used in his said House, nor in any Outhouse, Yard, Garden, or Backside thereunto belonging, during the said Term, then this Recognizance shall be void, otherwise to remain in full Force and Virtue.

NOTE, That by 26 G. II. C. 31. Any Justice on Complaint or Information, that such licensed Person hath committed any Act, whereby, in the Judgment of such Justice, the Recognizance may be forfeited, or the Condition broken, may, by Summons under Hand and Seal, require such Person to appear at the General or Quarter Sessions,

Sessions, then and there to answer to the Matter of such Complaint or Information.——

See Mr. *Burn* for *Forms* of Warrants,

—To receive the Penalty on the *first* Conviction of Drunkenness, on 4 J. C. 21. and 21 J. C. 7.

—To levy the Penalty of Drunkenness on *Non-payment*, by 4 J. C. 5. 21 J. C. 7.

COMMITMENT to the Stocks for Drunkenness, on *Inability* to pay the Penalty on 4. J. C. 5. 21 J. C. 7. is as follows.

D

To

To the Constable of——in the County of——

WHEREAS *A. O.* of——
 in the said County, Labourer, was on the——Day of
 ——convicted before me——one
 of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
 for the said County, for that he, the
 said *A. O.* was on the——Day of
 ——drunk at——aforesaid in the
 Parish of——in the said County,
 whereby he hath forfeited 5*s.*
 And whereas it duly appears to me,
 that the said *A. O.* is not able to
 pay the said Sum of 5*s.* These are
 therefore to require you in his Majesty's
 Name, to set him the said
A. O.

A. O. in the Stocks, there to remain for the Space of six Hours.
Given, &c. &c.

Other Forms of Warrants from
Mr. *Burn* under the Title *Ale-*
houses.

—To levy the Penalty (10s.) on
Alehousekeepers, for *suffering*
Tipling, on 1 J. C. 9.

—For *Commitment* of Alehouse-
keepers for *suffering* Tipling in
Default of Distrefs, on 1 J. C. 9.

—To receive the Penalty (3s. 4d.)
for Tipling, on 4 J. C. 5. 1 J. C. 9.
21 J. C. 7. 1 C. C. 4.

—To levy the Penalty for Tipling.
on Non-payment, on 4 J. C. 5.
1 J. C. 9. 21 J. C. 7. and 1 C.
C. 4.

COMMITMENT to the Stocks for
Tipling, on *Inability* to pay the
Penalty, on 4 J. C. 5. is in this
Form.

To the Constable of—

WHEREAS it has been
duly proved before me
—that *A. O.* of—Journey-
man Tanner, did on the—Day
of—remain and continue drink-
ing,

ing, and tipling in a common Alehouse, known by the Sign of —— in the Parish of —— in the County of —— contrary to the Statutes in such Case made and provided, by Reason whereof he hath forfeited the Sum of 3 s. 4 d. to the Use of the Poor of the said Parish: And whereas it duly appears to me, that the said *A. O.* is not able to pay the said Forfeiture —— These are therefore to require you to set the said *A. O.* in the Stocks, there to remain by the Space of four Hours—And for your so doing, this shall be your sufficient Warrant. Given, &c. &c.

30 G. II. *An Act* (inter alia) *for preventing Gaming in Publick Houses, by Journeymen, Labourers, Servants and Apprentices.*

AND whereas the Occupiers of many licensed Publick Houses, and of other Houses, wherein Wines and Liquors are sold, frequently suffer Gaming therein, and Journeymen, Labourers, Servants, and Apprentices, by Means of such Gaming therein, not only mispend their Time, but are often reduced to Poverty and great Distress, be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,

said, That from and after the 29th Day of *September*, 1757, if any Person or Persons licensed to sell any Sorts of Liquors, or who shall sell, or suffer the same to be sold in his, her, or their House, or Houses, or in any Out-houses, Ground, or Apartments thereto belonging, shall knowingly suffer any Gaming with Cards, Dice, Draughts, Shuffle Boards, Mississipi, or Billiard Table, *Skittles*, *Nine-pins*, or with any other Implement of Gaming, in his, her, or their Houses, Out-houses, Ground, or Apartments thereto belonging, by any such Journeymen, Labourers, Servants, or Apprentices, and shall
be

be convicted of the said Offence, on their own Confession, or on the Oaths of one or more credible Witness, or Witnesse, before any Justice or Justices of the Peace for the County, Riding, Division, City, Liberty or Place, wherein the Offence shall be committed, within six Days after any such Offence shall be committed, he, she, or they so offending, shall for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of forty Shillings; and for every like Offence, which he, she, or they, shall afterwards be convicted of, before any such Justice or Justices of the Peace, he, she, or they so offending, shall forfeit

the Sum of ten Pounds; all which Sums of Money, so forfeited, shall be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant from the Justice or Justices before whom such Offender or Offenders shall be convicted; and which Warrant every such Justice or Justices, is and are hereby required and authorized to grant.—And Three-Fourths of all Sums which shall be so forfeited, shall, on the Recovery thereof, be paid to the Church-Wardens of the Parish, in which the Offence shall be committed, for the Use of the Poor of such Parish—and the other fourth Part thereof shall be

E

paid

paid to the Person or Persons, on whose Information the Party or Parties offending shall have been convicted of the Offence.

SUCH has been the *Care* of our Governors, by Acts of Parliament, Proclamations, &c. almost in every Reign since the Reformation, to prevent excessive Drinking, horrid Swearing and Cursing, Lewdness, Profanation of the Lord's-Day, and all other dissolute, immoral, and disorderly Practices. But (alas!) how far has it been from answering the intended happy Effects!

“ THE

“ THE *antient, true, and prin-*
 “ *cipal* Use of Inns, Alehouses,
 “ and Victualling Houses was (as
 “ recited in the Preamble of the
 “ Act to restrain the inordinate
 “ Haunting and Tipling in them)
 “ for the Receipt, Relief and Lodg-
 “ ing of Wayfaring People, tra-
 “ velling from Place to Place, and
 “ for such Supply of the Wants of
 “ such People, as are not able,
 “ by greater Quantities to make
 “ their Provision of Victuals, and
 “ *not meant* for Entertainment, and
 “ harbouring of lewd and idle
 “ People, to spend and consume
 “ their *Money* and their *Time*, in
 “ a lewd

"a lewd and drunken Manner." —
 Well known to be too much the
 Case at this Time, and therefore
 ought to be duly weighed and
 deeply considered by *all those* who
 are any Way concerned in increa-
 sing and multiplying the Number
 of them.



F I N I S.

